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SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *March 27, 1897.*

SIR: The mortality for the week ended March 27 was 77, 12 more than last week, and the sanitary condition of Santiago is not so good as it was. Dysentery is considered by physicians here to have become epidemic, 27 deaths from it having been reported. Tuberculosis has caused 10 deaths, and malarial, intermittent, pernicious, and remittent fevers, 9; diarrhea, both acute and chronic, 15 deaths. The drought still continues and water is becoming very scarce. Temperature very high and dry.

I am happy to inform you that the subject on whom I was experimenting with the antileprosy serum is considerably improved, and I have hopes of curing him; but I shall make a special report when I shall be in position to do so.

Respectfully,

Dr. H. S. CAMINERO,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

FRANCE.

*Sanitary report from Marseilles.*MARSEILLES, FRANCE, *March 22, 1897.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your telegraphic orders, I arrived at this city early on the morning of the 18th instant, and on the same day went to the United States consulate and informed the consul of my desire to inspect the city. I found that the consul, Mr. Thomas, was busy in preparations to return to the United States, but he kindly put his time at my disposal, and with his assistance and from data furnished by him, I am enabled to report as follows:

The situation of the city of Marseilles is too well known to require any remarks, except to say that from its excellent natural advantages and from the amount of money that has been expended upon its harbor it has become the first seaport of France, and is the third city in point of population, the inhabitants numbering 444,000. The commerce of the port is vast and increasing, and at the present time there is a large amount of it carried on with the ports of India, Persia, and other countries bordering on the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. From these countries large quantities of wool are being imported, a good proportion of which is transshipped to Liverpool and London for export to the United States. * * *

Rags.—At present there is a fairly large movement of rags to the United States, but the rags are all of French origin, no foreign rags being imported at the present time for shipment to the United States. The regulations in regard to disinfection are being faithfully carried out. Mr. J. Goutte, the largest exporter, has recently completed, at considerable expense, a building for the disinfection of all rags to be shipped by him. The building is provided with racks, on which the rags are spread in thin layers, and are then disinfected by sulphur dioxide, the whole process being conducted under the supervision of Mr. Chambers, an attache of the consulate, who has been trained in the duty, I believe, by Surgeon Irwin, M. H. S. No invoices are certified at the consulate until the certificate of Mr. Chambers has been given.
* * *

Hides.—These are being shipped in considerable number, but are not from any infected district, and certificates of origin are in all cases required before certification of the invoices.

There is but little direct shipping of merchandise of any kind to the United States, the business of the port with our country being conducted almost entirely through English ports. There is but little immigration from this place to the United States, only one line of steamers, the Cyprian-Fabre, plying regularly. These steamers make now only two sailings a month, and having loaded a certain amount of cargo here, they sail for Naples and Messina, where they fill up with cargo, and then take on a full complement of the most undesirable Italian element which reaches our shores. For months past the departures from Marseilles have not often reached, and have never exceeded, 25 to 30 a sailing, and these are of all nationalities, including some Armenian refugees.

The present state of public health in Marseilles is about normal, but this has only recently become the case. In the latter part of January and early part of February there was an outbreak of a rather sudden and violent nature in the houses Nos. 80 and 82 Rue de la Republique, and in one house situated in the same street but upon the opposite side. In the two first mentioned there were 22 or 23 deaths in all within two weeks, and 1 in the opposite house. One of the first mentioned was used as a bird store, and was a resort for numbers of the crews of foreign, especially Indian, vessels. There was considerable alarm, and the municipal government took active measures, depopulating the tenements, practicing active disinfection, and keeping the houses, and even the street, closed for some time. It is rumored that the sanitary measures taken embraced even the removal of the plastering. Certain it is that whatever the disease and whatever the measures they were effectual, for the outbreak was controlled, and the disease wiped out, but it is noticeable that during these months the death rate, which is usually about 28 per day, rose to an average of over 50. During this entire time the existence of any epidemic disease was denied, but there was a large number of deaths returned as from "infectious pneumonia," which, it was given out, was a sequel of the influenza, which was raging at the time. * * * I do not believe that the outbreak was plague. * * * Whatever its nature it was soon over. * * *

* * * The water supply is derived from the river Durance, a mountain stream of great purity, but it is conveyed to the city for a distance of 30 miles in an open canal. Upon this canal are situated many mills and manufacturing establishments whose waste is discharged directly into the stream. There is an impression here that the cholera outbreak of 1893 was produced from the discharge into the canal of the refuse of flour mills, which at the time were grinding Russian wheat. * * * To make matters worse, if possible, twice during the year the water is shut off from the canal for the purpose of cleaning. This leaves certain of the most thickly populated portions of the city without any water supply for two or three weeks, and leads to the use of shallow surface wells, contaminated from privies and stables, and many of which have received no attention since the cholera outbreaks of 1893-94. * * * On the whole, Marseilles is as safe now as it ever reasonably can be under present conditions. No acute infectious disease prevails in epidemic form, and so far as plague is concerned, I do not consider the danger at all imminent. I have, therefore, cabled you to-day in general accordance with the above facts, and await your further instructions.

Very respectfully,

H. D. GEDDINGS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.